

Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, breezy, hot, humid. High 90. Low 72. Wind south 12-22 mph. Wednesday: Partly sunny, humid, afternoon storm possible. High 88. Yesterday: Temp. range: 64-87. AQI: 75. Details on Page D2.

The Washington Post

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116TH YEAR ... No. 283

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1993

Prices May Vary in Areas Outside Metropolitan Washington (See Box on A2)

25¢

"We who have fought against you, the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and a clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough!"

J. Rabin

Bin Clinton

—YITZHAK RABIN

Israel and PLO Sign Peace Pact

Rabin, Arafat Pledge Cooperation on Day of Historic Diplomacy



President Clinton looks on as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat shake hands after signing of agreement.

By Ann Devroy and John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writers

A ceremony filled with history and hope, representatives of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization yesterday surmounted 30 years of bloody animosity and signed a framework for peace on the White House South Lawn with President Clinton and much of the world as witness.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO official Mahmoud Abbas signed the Declaration of Principles for establishing Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. But all eyes were on the two leaders who flanked Clinton during the ceremony: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the 71-year-old hero of the 1967 Middle East War, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, until last week regarded as a *persona non grata* terrorist in the United States.

About 3,000 guests, many of whom had spent years working for peace in the Middle East, alternated between applause, hushed silence and sometimes tears as speaker after speaker recounted the bloody history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and called for a new day. The feud between Arabs and Jews over Palestine is a century old, but the PLO, founded in 1964, became the principal focus of opposition to the Jewish state after the 1967 war, which brought what are now an estimated 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

The ceremony itself was followed by a flurry of official and unofficial meetings between Israelis and Arabs, and sessions between Clinton and Israeli officials and Clinton and Arafat. By evening, most White House officials were in an emotional swoon over a day in which a historical divide had been crossed, but they said more steps would be needed to cement the move toward a sustainable Middle East peace.

"We've got to take a deep breath and move on very quickly," said one official.

Further progress will likely come today when Jordan and Israel are scheduled to announce agreement in Washington on an agenda that sets the framework for a treaty and diplomatic relations.

Some U.S. officials had also pressed for intensified American efforts to win a quick Israeli-Syrian agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. But Rabin has signaled the need for a brief pause before seeking a deal with Syria, in order to allow the Israeli public time to psychologically absorb planned troop pullbacks in Gaza and the West Bank.

A senior U.S. official denied last night. See MIDEAST, A12, Col. 1

Ritual End To Decades Of Conflict

Crowd Cheers Signs Of a New Beginning

By Ruth Marcus and Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writers

They stood in separate knots in the White House Blue Room for 20 minutes yesterday morning—the Israelis on the east side, the Palestinians on the west.

After decades of war, they were about to sign a framework for peace, and even shake hands on it publicly. But the niceties of diplomatic chitchat were more than they could manage.

The scene, one of the many memorable moments of a historic day, captured the amazing but still incomplete new reality of the Middle East—the Israeli prime minister and the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization together in the same room, yet still kept apart by decades of hatred and violence.

For President Clinton, the day started early. He woke up at 3 a.m. and decided to resume work on his speech, drafted by National Security Council aide Jeremy Rosner. According to senior officials, Clinton reread the biblical Book of Joshua and added the reference in his concluding remarks to the toppling walls of Jericho. He tinkered with the start of the speech, and added a paragraph quoting the Koran.

Later, Washington awakened to one of those days—Election Day, the inauguration, the start of the Persian Gulf War—when the city has an electric air about it of history unfolding.

See CEREMONY, A13, Col. 1

A Giant Leap of Faith for a Sacred Land

Profound and Painful Issues Must Be Settled Before Enemies Can Become Neighbors

By Glenn Frankel
Washington Post Staff Writer

Once again, an American president stood between an Israeli and an Arab leader on the White House lawn in a breathtaking moment that none of the participants had previously believed possible. Once again, two bitter enemies shook hands behind a walnut table after signing a historic agreement, unleashing a cascade of longings and fears.

Yesterday's ceremonial signing of a Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization was meant to evoke the spirit of the March 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. But there are crucial differences between the Camp David accords that led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace and yesterday's agreement—differences that underscore both the opportunities and the dangers in this brave new undertaking.

In many ways, the new pact is far bolder than the agreement hammered out between Israeli premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar Sadat. That was a peace treaty between two sovereign states ending a 31-year state of war and agreeing upon borders and the exchange of ambassadors. The second half of the accord—the attempt to formulate a settlement of the Palestinian problem—failed badly, yet its failure did not destroy the pact.

This time, the Israelis and Arabs have returned to the hard part. The declaration is an agreement between two peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, who have fought for 100 years for ownership of a small sliver of land that even on its brightest days does not seem big enough or rich enough to satisfy the aspirations of both. For two peoples

See ASSESS, A14, Col. 1



CELEBRATING NEW ERA

Palestinians in Jericho celebrate as the accord with Israel is signed in Washington, with one young man, above, wearing a shirt made out of the long-banned Palestinian flag. Jubilation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip outweighed scattered protests. In Jerusalem, peace activists gathered to savor the day. Story on Page A9.

The Accord Drama

Streets near the White House became instant theater as conservative Jews protested the Middle East accord and some Palestinians and Jews offered support. METRO, Page D1

History's Spotlight

The networks let the pictures that made history speak for themselves; the faces of the leaders told another story; and White House chefs served a beefy dinner for ex-presidents. STYLE, Pages B1, B4

NEWS ANALYSIS

There are crucial differences between the Camp David accords that led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace and yesterday's agreement—differences that underscore both the opportunities and the dangers in this brave new undertaking.

BLACKS AND BUSING

PRINCE GEORGE'S ONGOING DILEMMA

Mistrust, High Costs Conspire Against Alternatives

Last of three articles

By Lisa Leff
Washington Post Staff Writer

Prince George's County, one of the nation's wealthiest majority-black suburbs, wears its school desegregation order like an old suit that has gone out of style. After 20 years of race-based busing, the desire for change is strong. So is the fear of it.

Black community leaders say the court order did not give them what they really wanted, good schools and equality in education. Yet mistrust of a school system with a white superintendent and a

majority-white Board of Education makes them reluctant to give up a powerful bargaining chip.

Many black parents have accepted the notion that predominantly black schools are unavoidable, if not preferable. Yet county residents may not want to pay the higher taxes it probably would take to make segregated schools legally acceptable.

The tension between the status quo and the unknown, between the old Prince George's and the new, makes it difficult to end court-ordered busing at a time when many residents, black and white, agree it should be ended. Even as demographics and popular opinion drive the county to the end of an era,

familiarity and inertia keep it stuck in the past.

The busing debate is at a stalemate even though the county already has a rough blueprint, complete with price tag, for resolving the issue. Based on the theory that where social engineering failed, a well-targeted infusion of cash might succeed, it involves spending \$150 million a year more on education so every school can have smaller classes, more guidance counselors and computer labs stocked with the latest equipment.

Yet although local officials often complain that the county has outgrown the need for a

See BUSING, A6, Col. 1

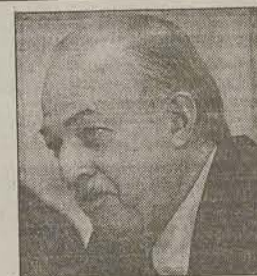
INSIDE

Trade With Vietnam

President Clinton yesterday eased the ban on trade with Vietnam but signaled that more progress is needed on the MIA issue. NATION, Page A4

Battle in Somalia

Three American soldiers were wounded in a fierce battle with Somali guerrillas at a Mogadishu hospital. WORLD, Page A8



Adams to Retire

Robert McC. Adams, above, said yesterday that he plans to step down as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution by the end of next year.

STYLE, Page B1



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